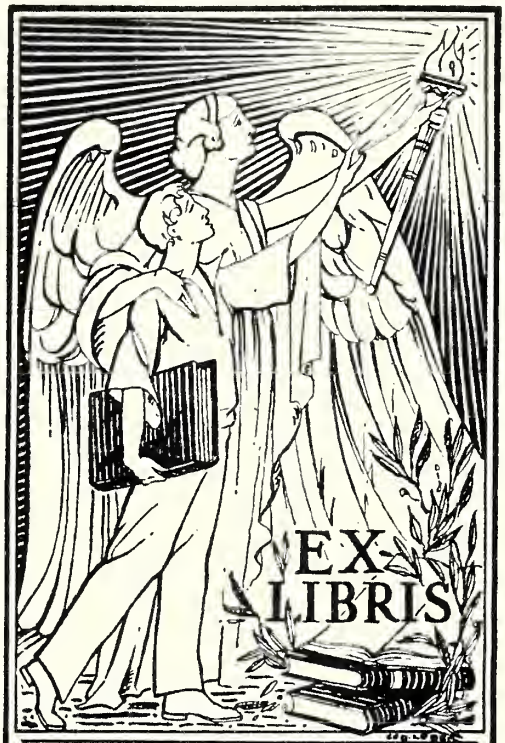
New Techniques for Teaching
the Blind
by
NEW YORK ASSOCIATION



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National conference of Braille Clubs reveals

New Techniques for Teaching the Blind

Some 300 men and women, members of Braille Clubs throughout the United States, gathered at the New York Association for the Blind, October 20 and 21, to learn about new techniques for teaching blind children and adults — especially children.

Bernard M. Krebs, chairman of the conference, pointed out the fact that more than 10,000 children who were blinded by retrolental fibroplasia are entering the nation's schools this year. This, he said, is the first big wave of such children old enough to begin school. This form of blindness is caused by an overdose of oxygen to premature infants during the incubator stage. After this cause of blindness was discovered in 1954, hospitals started putting in oxygen control equipment to prevent it.

Braille Clubs function as an information service to the community, schools, and agencies for the blind. The members locate material for teachers and transpose textbooks into braille. Among them are teachers, readers, transcribers, recorders, binders, social workers, professional workers, and others.

The demonstration pictures on this page were taken at the "Lighthouse" of the New York Association for the Blind.

BLIND DEMONSTRATE NEW EDUCATION TOOLS

Upper Left: Little Brad Greenspan and Karen Wolmer demonstrate how they find their coats and sweaters. In each locker a toy is hung and also the child's name in braille is put above each locker. The blind children first learn to use the toy to locate their individual compartments.

Upper Right: Karen and Brad learn to distinguish texture by feeling different objects in common use, like an ear of corn. Karen who is 5½, is telling Brad, 5, about the husks while he is feeling the kernels. Karen lives in Manhattan and Brad comes from the Bronx.

Lower Left: Karen, Brad, and their teacher, Mrs. Leah Katz Siegelman, of Manhattan, show visiting Braille Clubbers how children become acquainted with braille writing equipment. They are being exposed to braille writing materials, so that later on, when they start to learn to use them, it will come easier. Eager Karen can't wait to use the stylus.

Lower Right: Charles J. Beetz, Director of the Lighthouse's School of Music, instructs his assistant, Miss Janet Leahan, in the operation of the Notation Graph, a system that he has created to enable blind teachers to teach music to sighted students. He will preview the new device at the opening day's session of the National Braille Club.

The Jesse Tree

By Mrs. Alex Rayburn
Saint Mary School, Durand, Wis.

Prologue

A prophet is one who speaks in the name of God of the past, the present, or the future. Isaias is one of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament. He is called the prophet of divine mercy because the punishments with which he threatens the Jews and the Gentiles are for their reformation.

Isaias announced that a miraculous ruler would come from the root of Jesse. He meant Christ, the Messianic King. Christ is called the *root of Jesse*, or, *from the root of Jesse*, because He is a descendant of David, who was the son of Jesse.

The Prophecy of Isaias

Promise of Christ: ". . . Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel."

Prophecy of the Birth of Christ: "For a Child is born to us, and a Son is given to us, and the government is on His shoulder, and His name shall be called — Wonderful, Counselor, God the Mighty, the Father of the World to Come, the Prince of Peace."

Justice of Christ's Kingdom: "And there shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of His root."

The Coming of Christ: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings and that preacheth of peace: of Him that showeth forth good, that preacheth salvation, that saith to Sion: *Thy God shall reign!*"

Each of the decorations which we now shall hang on our Christmas tree is a symbol either of an ancestor of Christ or a prophecy foretelling His coming. When they are hung on the tree, it then becomes a JESSE TREE — the Family Tree of Christ.

THE JESSE TREE

THE SUN:*
Christ the Rising Dawn
Brings eternal life and light
As the natural sun's bright rays
Dispel the darkness of night.

THE TABLETS OF THE LAW:
The Law of Moses on the tablets
Given by our Father above
Was fulfilled in God the Son
Who brought the law of love.

THE KEY OF DAVID:
Key of the House of David,
Christ, whom all men await
According to the prophecy,
To reopen heaven's gate.

BETHLEHEM:
"For a Child is born to us,"
The prophecy of His birth
Was made some seven hundred years
Before He came on earth.

THE ROOT OF JESSE:
Springing from the root of Jesse
Is the flower, God's only Son,
Sitting on the "throne of David,"
Christ the King — our only One.

THE STAR OF DAVID:
The star of David
Is the sign of royalty
Of our little King and Saviour.
Keep it bright for such as He.

JACOB'S LADDER:
A ladder reaching from heaven to earth
Was Christ who would invite
Mankind to God. This Jacob saw
In a sacred vision's light.

JONAS IN THE WHALE:
Jonas in the whale
For days that numbered three.
His life was saved. Christ spent *three* days
In the earth to set man free.

THE TEMPLE:
The temple was God's dwelling place
Among the Jews of old
His new Presence is within us —
His Holy Spirit ours to hold.

THE CROWN AND THE SCEPTRE:
Desired by all, our Saviour,
Our universal King,
Who loves both Jew and Gentile.
His praises chant and sing.
[*Chant insert optional*]

THE SWORD OF JUDITH:
Judith used a mighty sword
To save the Israelite nation.
Mary gave the world her Son,
The Way to their salvation.

THE BURNING BUSH:
The burning bush is the symbol
Of the Blessed Virgin, mild
Who, according to God's will,
Brought forth the Holy Child.

NOE'S ARK:
Noe's Ark saved humanity
When the world with sin was rife.
Christ gave heaven to all mankind
And to His Church supernatural life.

THE ALTAR OF THE HOLOCAUST:
Here sacrifice was offered
By the Jewish every day.
We offer, with Christ, our sacrifice
When in Holy Mass we pray.

THE APPLE:
"O Happy Fault
Whereby we have merited
So great a Redeemer."
[*Chant insert optional*]

THE PASCHAL LAMB:
The sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb
Was fulfilled in Christ, the
"Lamb who taketh away the sins of the world."

THE PILLAR OF FIRE:
God appeared in a pillar of fire,
Through the desert, His people to lead.
Christ leads us through the desert of life
If His Words and Way we heed.

MANNA:
Christ, the true Bread from heaven
Was symbolized by the manna
God fed the Jews who pleaded:
"Save now we pray — Hosanna."
[*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel — Chant*]

*The symbols which are hung on the "Jesse Tree" are taken from *The Twelve Days of Christmas Kit*, designed by the Grailville Writing Center and published by the Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minn.

Any Christmas tree can become a Jesse tree with ornaments symbolizing the Family of Jesus! Here is a ceremony for the Middle Grades.

PAMPHLET BINDERS

This is No. **1530**

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1524	10	"	7	"	"
1525	9	"	6	"	"
1526	9¾	"	7⅛	"	"
1527	10½	"	7⅝	"	"
1528	11	"	8	"	"
1529	12	inches	10	inches	½ inch
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